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SOURCE Sovietagan Haiastan.

WASTE AND DESTRUCTION OF SUGAR-BEET,
COTTON CROPS IN ARMENIAN SSR

Sugar

Cooperatives around Akhruian [In Akhuryanskiy Rayon] produce large quantities of sugar beet. However, according to M. Melkonian, special correspondent of Sovietagan Haiastan, there is considerable slackness, waste, and destruction in the collective farms of the area.

He specifically names as delinquent the cooperatives in the villages of Azadan, Akhruian, Gamo, Marashian, Garipchayan, Arevig, Mayisian, Hatzig, and Chachour. He points out that there are several reasons for this condition: (1) the collective farms are not striving to meet the production quota set for them by the planners; (2) the leaders of the cooperatives have not mobilized all the available manpower for harvesting purposes; (3) the harvesters work only about 4 or 5 hours a day; (4) during harvesting, considerable destruction is caused through negligence, carelessness, and misuse of equipment, and large amounts of sugar beet are left in the ground to rot; workers turn the plow backwards and crush the beets; (5) much is wasted between harvesting and transportation of the beets to the storehouses and factories; existing transportation facilities are not used to advantage; and (6) the sugar factories and storage depots give insufficient assistance to the cooperatives in matters of transportation and present many difficulties during unloading.

Melkonian cites some examples to prove his points. During September 625 hectares of beets were harvested from this area, only 29 percent of its quota. Of this, only 50 percent was transported to the storage depots. Instead of 304 hectares, only 104 hectares were harvested by the Akhruian cooperative; instead of 240 hectares, 131 hectares were harvested by the Azadan Cooperative; and instead of 150 hectares, 29 hectares were harvested by the Gamo Cooperative. The village of Gamo sent 1,348 centners to storage instead of 23,500 centners. Five thousand centners of sugar beets were never transported to storage depots by the village of Akhruian. The brigades of workers supervised by H. Bedrosian

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and M. Arakelian left large amounts of their beets in the ground. A. Saroyan, president of the executive of the cooperatives, did not put to work the 14 carts which were at his disposal for transportation of the beets. The sugar factory of Sbidag assigned only 17 of the 26 trucks designated for the cooperatives of the Akhurian area. The sugar-beet storage depot of Leninakan presented many difficulties, slowing down the unloading of the beets. The director, B. Kachadurian, had made no preparations to receive the harvest, there were insufficient scales, and the roads were cluttered.

Cotton

According to A. Bedrosian, at least 10 or 15 percent, in some instances more, of the cotton yield is lost during harvesting. In the fields, on the roads, in the driers, and in storage depots, large quantities of cotton are thrown about in dirt and dust. Part of the ripe cotton which falls on the ground during rainfall is never picked up. In many villages, the method of drying is so poor that much cotton is wasted. This condition prevails in the cotton fields of Nor Gyank village and in the vicinity of Veta, as well as in many other areas.

It is essential not to lose one speck of cotton, writes Bedrosian; therefore, the executive committee of the collective farms of the Oktemperian village, at a recent meeting, decided to give much closer supervision to cotton pickers. It was also decided to inform each worker that carelessness during picking and drying of cotton will be punished, Bedrosian states.

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